

Going places

Supporting pedestrian journeys

Everyone starts and ends their journey as a pedestrian, even if it is just for the short distance from the front door to the bus stop. In Southwark, the biggest proportion of journeys are pedestrian journeys.

Supporting pedestrians means providing connected streets that are suitable for walking and wheeling. We need to think of our street network as a whole, supporting pedestrian journeys and reducing and removing barriers and providing crossings wherever we can. We want streets to provide the simplest, clearest routes possible that connect people and places directly together.



Objective 2: Creating a connected network of streets

Walking and wheeling make up the biggest share of journeys in Southwark. Journeys by public transport – which generally also involve some walking and wheeling – make up the second biggest share of trips.

These two modes account for more than two-thirds of trips in Southwark, and yet we don't build our streets around pedestrian journeys. We build them to support motor vehicle journeys, giving drivers direct routes and clear signage. Pedestrians often use these same roads, but they are not built to support their journeys, making them unsafe and unpleasant.

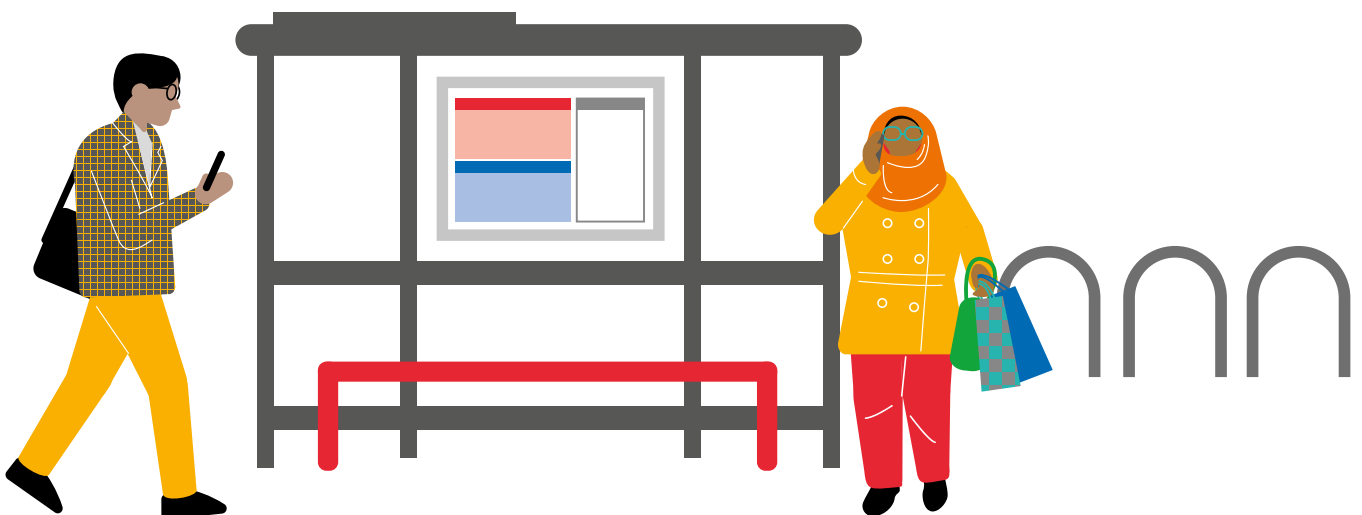
Putting the car first encourages driving. The proportion of journeys by car is still higher than it needs to be – more than a third of car journeys in London are less than 2km, about half-an-hour's walk⁶.

To support pedestrians, we need to think of streets and spaces as a coherent, connected network, helping people get to where they need to go. The goals of Objective 1 – making streets safe and accessible for everyone are key to this, as people's journeys can start and end anywhere. Major destinations, such as schools, train stations and high streets are busy places. Routes to these places will form the backbone of our high-quality Pedestrian Network. This Pedestrian Network will pass within 200 metres of everyone in Southwark and will be where we provide additional facilities to support pedestrian journeys. These will include places to rest for people that need it, and information on where to find toilets and other local amenities. This will also support people who work on our streets, such as delivery workers, street cleaners

and social and community health staff. The Pedestrian Network will connect to the mobility hubs that will be delivered as part of the Cycling Plan, to help people using both modes.

The Pedestrian Network will help us focus improvements where they are needed most. On local residential streets we will redirect traffic, reduce speeds and the space for motor vehicles. This will help make us pedestrian journeys safer and more comfortable, and allow us to deliver new facilities. Where the network reaches busier places, additional investments, such as new crossings, will be needed to keep pedestrians safe while maintaining necessary vehicle access. Thinking of movement across the whole borough will help us to identify gaps – such as across railway lines, retail parks, green spaces and housing estates – where new routes are needed to make pedestrian journeys shorter, quicker and quieter.

The Pedestrian Network will make it easier for people to get around different parts of Southwark. It should be easy to find where you are going, especially if you are new to an area. Maps and clear signs will help people get where they need to go. The Network should also reflect the character of the local areas and its residents. This will ensure that the Network feels a part of the neighbourhoods it passes through.



⁶ Transport for London, Roads Task Force – Technical Note 14: Who travels by car in London and for what purpose? Available at: <https://content.tfl.gov.uk/technical-note-14-who-travels-by-car-in-london.pdf>

What we will do:

2.1 Develop a borough-wide Pedestrian Network plan by 2024. This will be used to identify where improvements to comfort and safety, such as new crossings, rest areas and signs and maps, are required.

2.2 Listen to local residents and community groups to develop this Pedestrian Network. This will make sure that the network reflects where people actually walk and wheel. We will give people an opportunity to let us know what improvements are needed to make pedestrian journeys safer, more direct and more comfortable.

2.3 Include the Pedestrian Network in our local plan. This will ensure that new development in the borough helps to deliver the Pedestrian Network, and that new places are always easy to reach for pedestrians.

2.4 Deliver new walk-to-school routes. This will help children become familiar with using the Network and getting around Southwark as a pedestrian.

